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Forty-seventh session
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Agenda item 95

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Letter dated 10 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to state that, in cooperation with the French Ministry of the Interior, the United Arab Emirates hosted from 3 to 8 October 1992 an International Conference of Drug Control Experts that was attended by experts from 30 countries and nine regional organizations. I transmit to you herewith, in Arabic and English, the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its closing session. I should be grateful if you would have the text of the recommendations circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 95.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Recommendations adopted by the International Conference of Drug Control Experts held at Abu Dhabi from 3 to 8 October 1992

An International Conference of Drug Control Experts, under the patronage of His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Bin Ali, Minister of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, and jointly organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the French Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Abu Dhabi Police Department, was held in the main auditorium at Abu Dhabi Police Department from 3 to 8 October 1992.

Credit for the organization of the Conference is largely due to His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Ben Ali, Minister of the Interior, on whose instructions work proceeded with the French authorities and the greatest efforts were made for the proper conduct of the work of the Conference.

The organizational aspects of the conference were completed under the supervision of His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, who also issued invitations to countries and international organizations, presided at the opening session and declared the conference open on behalf of His Excellency the Minister of the Interior.

His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department, assumed responsibility for the formation of a preparatory committee and served as President of the Conference. His constant guidance of the work of the Conference had the most positive impact in ensuring its eventual success. He maintained close contact with the French authorities in matters relating to the preparation of the Conference and the work of the subcommittees of the preparatory committee.

The opening session of the Conference began at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 3 October 1992. His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, served as presiding officer of the session, and statements were made by the representatives of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) and by His Excellency the Ambassador of France and His Excellency Mr. Ottavi, representative of the French Government. The session concluded with an address by the President of the Conference, His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department.

The work of the Conference covered five major working sessions and the presentation of country reports. The recommendations adopted by the participants and set forth hereunder emerged from the deliberations of these sessions and from discussion of the working papers presented. They were endorsed by the representatives of the following 30 countries which participated in the Conference: Australia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, France,

Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Representatives of the following international organizations also attended the Conference and endorsed the recommendations: the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA), the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Union for Mental Health, the National Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency of the United States of America (NCPA), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Pride International and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP).

The participants, representatives of countries and international organizations, deem it appropriate that these recommendations should be submitted to Governments and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and that Governments and organizations should be urged to promote their implementation at the earliest possible opportunity.

1. The participants convey their appreciation, admiration and deep thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister, and to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and they commend the remarkable progress achieved by the United Arab Emirates under their discerning leadership.

2. The participants further convey their sincere thanks, their appreciation and their gratitude to His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Bin Ali, Minister of the Interior, for his kind patronage of the Conference and his supervision of the State authorities concerned in the organization of the Conference in the outstanding manner achieved. They also express their sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, who presided at the opening session and by constantly monitoring the work of the Conference contributed to its resounding success.

The participants convey their deep thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department and President of the Conference, for placing the staff of the Department at the disposal of the Conference organizers to such good effect and for the warm reception and liberal generosity that they encountered.

The participants express their sincere thanks and admiration to the preparatory committee, to which credit is due for the unmatched success of the meticulously executed professional and social programmes, and to all the administrators and officers who attended to the comfort of the participants and much facilitated their task.

3. The participants also convey their deep thanks and gratitude to the Ministry of the Interior of the French Republic, which collaborated with the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates in the organization of the Conference in such a way as to have a far-reaching impact on the success of its work.

4. The participants express their great appreciation and admiration to the news media of the United Arab Emirates and to the international media which gave full coverage to the work of the Conference and thereby promoted the achievement of many of its goals.

Accordingly, the International Conference of Drug Control Experts held at Abu Dhabi from 3 to 8 October 1992 issued the following recommendations:

I. International cooperation

1. Believing that narcotic drugs constitute an international problem that cannot be addressed in the context of a single country or a single region and one that must be understood in a global international perspective and regarded as a problem that threatens all humanity, undermines its values and ideals and jeopardizes the economy, health, culture, society and security, the participants recommend that all States and international agencies and organizations should come together and cooperate to avert this danger by exchanging information and experience and by organizing local, regional or international meetings and conferences for this purpose.

2. The participants recommend that all States should accede to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Vienna Convention on Drug Trafficking, and they further urge States to enact appropriate legislation to help prevent money laundering.

3. The participants recommend that the Conference should establish a committee of representatives of Interpol, ICPA, ICAA, Pride International, UNIDCP and non-governmental organizations to maintain contact with countries and with other agencies and organizations with a view to holding annual international conferences similar to the International Conference of Drug Control Experts.

4. The participants recommend that international organizations such as Interpol, UNIDCP and others, as well as certain developed countries capable of doing so, should be asked to help the developing countries, particularly in training in various drug control fields.

II. Law enforcement and legislation

1. The participants recommend that States and international organizations should make greater efforts to train drug enforcement officers and enable them to develop the best ways and means of detecting bands of smugglers and illicit drug trafficking.

2. The participants recommend that drug enforcement agencies should be allowed to play a greater role in preventive programmes on the dangers of drugs in light of the information and experience available to such agencies that can be useful in this field.

3. The participants recommend that Interpol, UNIDCP and the Customs Cooperation Council should offer training courses on techniques of investigating crimes involving funds of suspect origin.

III. Prevention

1. The participants recommend that increased attention should be given to religious motivation, that the Islamic creed and the teachings of Islam should be the major focus of all preventive and educational programmes in Islamic countries and that, to achieve the best results, the Islamic religion should have a central role in drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

2. The Conference recommends that an international conference of women should be convened at a suitable venue to discuss issues of health, youth, prenatal health and child care so that children may grow up averse to drugs and intoxicants.

3. The focus should be on prevention and enforcement programmes and on the health hazards of drugs, and drug abuse should be studied in schools and by young people.

4. The participants recommend that the countries that produce and consume narcotic substances and drugs should convene an international conference for concerted action to protect societies from the dangers of drug abuse and enable the developing countries to profit from the experience of the developed countries. The programmes of such a conference should include many of the fields relating to prevention, legislation, the activities of law enforcement agencies, education, money laundering, and the like. The participating affluent countries should finance such a conference, which the participants propose should be held on an annual basis in one of the developing countries.

IV. Treatment and rehabilitation

1. The participants recommend that all countries, and especially the developing countries, should establish up-to-date treatment centres providing modern programmes of treatment and cultural, educational and vocational training programmes.

2. The participants recommend that religious institutions should play a central role in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

3. The Conference recommends that research work should continue to develop more successful methods of treatment and rehabilitation.

4. The participants recommend that research on the transmission of AIDS through the use of non-sterile hypodermics should continue, that the subject should be central to AIDS prevention programmes even in countries that are not at present exposed to the spread of the disease, and that treatment services should be provided to all who join such programmes until they recover from addiction or drug dependency.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 16 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Tunis Declaration adopted at the African regional meeting held in Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992 in preparation for the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights to be convened in Vienna in 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session under agenda item 97 (b).

(Signed) Hamadi KHOUINI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING (TUNIS, 2 TO 6 NOVEMBER 1992)
FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Tunis Declaration

The African regional meeting held in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights, which met in Tunis from 2 to 6 November, concluded with the adoption of a 13-point Declaration.

Known as the Tunis Declaration, the document was adopted by representatives of 41 African States and 180 non-governmental organizations.

The text of the Declaration is as follows:

"The Ministers and representatives of the African States meeting in Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992 in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights and pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/116,

Considering the importance of the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights, which is being held in the aftermath of the structural changes that have taken place in international relations and on the eve of a new international order,

Considering the increasingly privileged position being given to the protection and promotion of human rights among the concerns of the international community,

Taking note with satisfaction of the advance made in enacting human rights provisions and of the progress accomplished in applying them throughout the world,

Recognizing, however, that there are both endogenous and exogenous difficulties which delay or impede the satisfactory implementation of human rights on a global scale,

Considering that the essential objective of the World Conference on Human Rights is precisely to identify these difficulties and advocate measures to be taken nationally and internationally to overcome them,

Aware of the importance of the debates which will take place during the World Conference on Human Rights and of the impact of the resulting conclusions on the direction of future United Nations activities in the field,

Desiring to contribute to the success of the World Conference and to share African concerns with the international community in the field of the promotion of human rights and the rights of the citizen,

Have adopted this Declaration entitled the Tunis Declaration, which reflects their convictions as well as their expectations:

1. The commitment of the African States to the principles laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights is irreversible;

2. The universality of human rights is unquestionable; their protection and promotion constitute a duty for all States without regard to their political, economic or cultural system;

3. The administration of justice and the independence of the judiciary are conditions sine qua non for the full realization of human rights. However, that goal cannot possibly be achieved without a substantial effort to further the administration of justice. The African States and the international community must therefore devote more resources to this area;

4. Responsibility for the implementation and promotion of human rights rests primarily with Governments. The institutions, organizations and structures that constitute society also have an important role to play in safeguarding and publicizing those rights and therefore deserve to be strengthened and encouraged;

5. Respect for human rights is undeniably a matter of international concern. No preconceived model, however, can be prescribed on a universal scale. The promotion of human rights in the world is a goal to the attainment of which all States, without exception, are called upon to contribute;

6. The principle of the indivisibility of human rights is sacrosanct. Civil and political rights cannot be dissociated from economic, social and cultural rights. None of those rights occupies a privileged position vis-à-vis the others;

7. Political freedom, unless accompanied by respect for economic, social and cultural rights, remains precarious;

8. The right to development is inalienable;

9. Human rights, development and international peace are interdependent;

10. Lasting progress towards the implementation of human rights requires effective development policies at the national level, more equitable economic relations at the international level, and a favourable economic environment;

11. Extremism and religious, racial or any other kind of fanaticism once again pose a serious threat to the protection and promotion of the universal values of human rights, and Governments, individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations are called upon to make efforts, take the necessary measures and cooperate in order to meet this threat;

12. Africa, which has voluntarily chosen the path of democracy, economic liberalization and the promotion of human rights in an unfavourable international environment, and which finds itself particularly exposed to internal tensions arising out of the failure to satisfy the essential needs of the people and the rise of extremism, will nevertheless continue to uphold its choices and to fulfil its responsibilities. It expects the international community to fulfil its own, especially through the strengthening of international solidarity, an adequate increase in development aid and an appropriate settlement of the debt problem;

13. Africa, which remains committed to individual rights, at the same time reaffirms the importance it attaches to a respect for the collective rights of peoples. For that reason, it is particularly concerned by the persistence of apartheid in South Africa, the renewal of massive and systematic violations of human rights as a result of foreign occupation, for example in the occupied Arab territories, armed conflicts such as that in Somalia, and the emergence of the policy of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it reaffirms the right of all nations to self-determination and to the free choice of their political and economic systems and institutions on the basis of respect for national sovereignty."

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 16 November 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the information from the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the status of and the problems related to refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES AND THE RELATED PROBLEMS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

For a few months now, escaping the horrors of war, columns of refugees have been seeking and finding refuge in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and among its population.

According to the latest information, there are over 600,000 refugees in the two Yugoslav republics (Serbia and Montenegro). The official statistics indicate that out of that number there are 540,000 refugees in Serbia: 199,000 from Croatia, approximately 304,000 from Bosnia and Herzegovina and about 37,000 from Slovenia. The majority are Serbs (84 per cent); over 6 per cent are Muslims, 1.5 per cent Croats and the remainder Albanians, Jews, gypsies, Bulgarians and Hungarians, etc.

There are 62,500 registered refugees in Montenegro. Out of that number, 55,800 are refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 6.7 per cent from Croatia and Slovenia. According to reliable sources, the total number of refugees in Montenegro is 10,000 higher. Consequently, the total number of refugees constitute 12 per cent of the republic's overall population. Serbs, Montenegrins and Muslims are equally represented in the refugee population.

Children and youths of up to 18 years of age constitute 58 per cent of the refugee population in Montenegro and 42.6 per cent in Serbia. In both republics, the majority - over 80 per cent of the refugees - are women. This structure clearly indicates that we are dealing with the most vulnerable segment of the population which, owing to long exposure to fear, stress, breakup of family ties and loss of relatives, needs improved health care and social protection.

The refugees usually come to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia without any means of subsistence and cannot collect the pensions, disability payments or other social security benefits they were entitled to in the regions they came from. Their prospects of returning to their homes and the property they left behind are rather uncertain.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its population have taken on a heavy burden in fulfilling their human duty towards the refugees. Ever since the refugee problems first arose, the federal authorities, along with the bodies of the republics and the communities, companies, Red Cross organizations and other humanitarian organizations have become actively engaged in providing accommodation to refugees with the support of all Yugoslav citizens in the country and abroad and of various religious and other organizations.

In both Yugoslav republics, special bodies - commissariats - have been set up to provide assistance to the refugees.

All refugees in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are entitled to the same comprehensive health-care services as the local population. Pupils and students are enrolled in schools and universities under the same terms and conditions as the children and youths of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Traditional family and human solidarity have made it possible for 90 per cent of the refugees in both republics to be accommodated in the homes of relatives, friends or simply people of goodwill who wanted to help others in need. The State has accepted this practice. However, time has shown that it has a positive and a negative side. On the one hand, such a form of accommodation is advantageous since it prevents "ghettoization" of refugees. On the other, it prevents the problems from being seen in their entirety and consequently hinders their systematic and ultimate solution. Furthermore, the host families are confronted with obligations with which they are increasingly unable to cope without adequate assistance from the public sector or charity. Outside help is shrinking and insufficient to make up even for a fraction of what the host families have been willing to offer to the refugees from the very first day. Their readiness to help has been drastically eroded by the steady worsening of their social and economic situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which has been further exacerbated by the Security Council sanctions. In such circumstances, practically the whole population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia may find itself in need of humanitarian assistance, with shortages of heating fuel for the coming winter and of the basic staples, not to mention acute problems in the field of health care.

More and more citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, even though they work, cannot provide even the minimum for the livelihood of their families. The average income has fallen below 100 deutsche mark. Unemployment figures have soared to 15 per cent and a great number of workers are on forced leave owing to the decline in economic activity as a consequence of the Security Council sanctions, with uncertain perspectives of holding on to their jobs. The drastic decline in the real sources of public income adversely affects payments of pensions, disability and child support payments, unemployment benefits, welfare and subsidies to social welfare institutions, which have more and more beneficiaries from the ranks of the local and refugee population. Major problems in the functioning of health-care services with increased needs may have far-reaching consequences for the health of a population already affected by poor nutrition, physical weakness, anxiety and stress.

In addition to already extremely unfavourable development trends, drastically accentuated by the harsh Security Council sanctions, Yugoslavia has been struck by elemental catastrophes - drought and floods of major proportions.

Under such circumstances, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its population are making desperate efforts to fulfil their human obligation - to help the refugees who have come to their territory. The following are the most acute problems needing solution before the winter sets in:

(a) Provision of enough food and products for personal hygiene for all refugees, especially for the most vulnerable groups such as babies, infants, pregnant women and nursing mothers;

(b) A growing need to move the refugees from families to more adequate collective facilities (by adapting those in existence and building new ones) and to prefabricated buildings, and to accommodate orphaned children, the elderly and the disabled in appropriate welfare institutions;

(c) Accommodation of children in preschool institutions and school-age children in pupils' and students' homes, and the provision of school supplies, etc.;

(d) Shortages of medicines and medical equipment, increasingly acute in view of the growing needs of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of the refugees.

As you know, a United Nations inter-agency mission visited all the former republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in August 1992 and was able to see all the problems related to the accommodation of refugees and the assistance needed to that effect. The mission concluded that the cost of the humanitarian assistance needed to address these problems in the period from September 1992 to March 1993 would amount to US$ 300 million for the refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia only.

However, in the appeal prepared on the basis of the mission's findings, the United Nations agencies envisaged less than half of resources required to meet the total needs of refugees in the whole of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e. less than US$ 100 million in the case of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In reducing the amount of the assessed requirements requested in the appeal, resources for the accommodation of refugees were particularly cut back. In addition, the needs of the host families were not fully taken into account, nor were the requirements in oil for humanitarian purposes, which will be one of the major problems of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the refugees it has accepted. Even if the assistance envisaged in the appeal materializes at the proposed or a lower level, it will still be insufficient to meet the needs of the refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and many problems with ominous and far-reaching consequences will remain unsolved, all the more so if the international community, i.e. every individual country, does not become more responsive and channel more resources at the bilateral level to the refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The time at which Yugoslavia has been compelled to appeal for more adequate and timely international humanitarian relief is fraught with the so far unprecedented interaction of two factors: the heavy burden of care and responsibility for over half a million refugees and the Security Council sanctions. Taken together, these factors not only will have drastic consequences for Yugoslavia's long-term economic development, but they also

threaten the Yugoslav population and the refugees it has accepted with severe social consequences. Without adequate understanding and help from the international community to eliminate the causes of such bleak perspectives, unforeseeable consequences threaten to jeopardize present and future generations, consequences that even our closest neighbours will not be able to avoid.

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ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEM TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Letter dated 20 November 1992 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Third Committee

I have the honour to inform you that at the 68th plenary meeting of the forty-seventh session, held today, the General Assembly decided to allocate the following item to the Third Committee:

"The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia (item 149)"

(Signed) Stoyan GANEV

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